

Annual Report of M.O.H.

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MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1925

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

GENTLEMEN,

Whilst presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1925, I am pleased to record that whilst excepting the epidemics of the less serious infectious diseases such as Chicken-pox and Mumps amongst the children, the year is conspicuous by the very small amount of the more serious infections like Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever and Diphtheria.

THE POPULATION OF YOUR SANITARY AREA, comprising 12 Parishes, is estimated by the Registrar General for 1925, as being 14,680; a slight increase on the previous year. The total acreage of the Sanitary District is 54,294. The number of inhabited houses in the District is 3342.

THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS during the year has been 284—Males 124, Females 160, including illegitimate births to the number of 21.

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS has been 168—Males 81, Females 87. This total includes 23 infants under one year of age and of which 4 were of illegitimate birth. The above figures show:—

1. A birth rate of ... 19.34 per 1,000 population.
2. A death rate of ... 11.44 per 1,000 population.
3. An infantile death rate 80.98 per 1,000 births.

Although these rates are in the main satisfactory, as compared with those of other Rural Districts, yet it is well to bear in mind that many infantile deaths are brought about, directly or indirectly, by preventable causes, the chief one of which is faulty feeding. Parents do not sufficiently grasp the importance of feeding an infant on fresh, unboiled milk. The process of boiling destroys that something which makes all the difference to the health of a young infant.

No death was recorded from Puerperal Sepsis or lying in Fever.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (notifiable).—The total number of notifications received by me during 1925, was 63. The Chicken-pox epidemics account for the majority of notifications. The more serious diseases were less in number than usual:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	7
Encephalitis Lethargica (Sleepy Sickness)					1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	1

Two notifications of Small-pox were received and recorded as such in my register during the year, but these on investigation were amended by me as being Chicken-pox, one was of a severe type, the

other a mild very ordinary case. Both cases formed the subject of a special report by me to your Council. They were treated at the Barton Road Isolation Hospital. A notification was also received by me from the Authorities in respect of a soldier disembarked at Southampton, an indirect contact with a Small-pox case. He was kept under notice for the required period.

THE one case of Typhoid Fever was of what is called the Ambulatory type which so often causes serious outbreaks. Fortunately the disease was recognised early, and very carefully dealt with as to isolation at home, and no further cases occurred.

EIGHT Cases (Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever), in all were sent into the Isolation Hospital for treatment and care.

TUBERCULOSIS —Number of cases notified, 18 Pulmonary, 5 other forms. There were 10 deaths from this disease (all forms) during the year. New Regulations came into operation at the beginning of the year, requiring the Medical Officer to render quarterly returns of particulars of all cases of Tuberculosis to the County Authority.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—The notifications of infectious ailments, causing absence from School, sent in to me by the Head Teachers, under the County Medical Officer's Scheme, totalled 560. When necessary, personal investigation was made by me and the Schools visited for that purpose.

WATER SUPPLY.—No alteration was made during the year in this matter, as regards supplying that half of your district dependent on wells and cistern storage of rain water. My views on this do not, I think, require reiteration.

MEAT REGULATIONS —The following orders came into operation during the year, 1925 :—

1. The Rural District Council Order (1924) (Slaughter-houses), came into operation on the first day of January, requiring all Slaughter-houses to be registered before April, 1925.

2. The Public Health (Meat) Regulations (1924), came into operation on April 1st, 1925.

This has proved a very useful regulation for the protection of the public, but has very much increased my work and responsibilities. It has also meant a great deal of additional work on the part of the Inspector. I have personally inspected every carcase of animals slaughtered for sale as food, at such times other than during registered hours when the required notice has been given and received. In addition to these special inspections, the ordinary inspections during registered slaughter hours, have been made by the Inspector. It will doubtless be a matter of satisfaction to your Council that all carcasses ruled by me to be unfit for food, have been surrendered without question, thus obviating the necessity to seize. I would remind your Council that seizure necessitates prosecution.

HOUSING.—The eight houses which were nearing completion at the end of 1924, mentioned in my Annual Report for that year, were finished early in 1925. During the latter part of the year your Council accepted tenders for the erection of 56 new houses, part of

the scheme for 100 houses as stated in my last Annual Report. These 56 houses are to be apportioned to the various parishes as follows:—

Emneth	10
Tilney St. Lawrence	4
Upwell	12
Walpole St. Peter	12
West Walton	12
Marshland Fen	6

At the end of 1925 your Council owned 130 working class dwellings and these are distributed throughout the District as follows:—

Tilney St. Lawrence	6
Clenchwarton	18
Terrington St. Clement	44
Walpole St. Andrew	14
Walpole St. Peter	6
West Walton	4
Emneth	8
Upwell, Three Holes	20
„ Lakesend	4
„ Nordelph	6
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	130

Appended is the Report of the Inspector, Mr. Dewhurst:—

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1925.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under) (b)	26
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:	
(I) By the Local Authority	8
(II) By other bodies or persons	11

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspections.—

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	180
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	150
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling houses not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	95

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	90
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations of owners of intention to close	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	60
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	60
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined	0
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

SANITARY INSPECTIONS :—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—

Inspections made	60
Number of Rooms disinfected	24

NUISANCES.—

Inspections made	210
Notices served	72
Nuisances abated	68

NEW BUILDINGS.—

Inspections made	210
Number of New Houses including Bungalows built during the year	26

SCHOOLS.—

Inspections made	20
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WATER SUPPLY.—

Inspections made	50
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KNACKERS ACT.—

Licenses granted	3
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SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—

17 in number inspected periodically.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES —

Factories on Register	6
Workshops on Register	53
Inspections made	70

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS were periodically inspected during the year.

FRUIT PICKERS.—

About 1,000 engaged during the season
All Fruit Pickers' Bunks were inspected at the time of occupation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

SEPTIMUS R. LISTER, M.D.

March 31st, 1926